



ARCHEVÊCHE DES EGLISES ORTHODOXES RUSSES
EN EUROPE OCCIDENTALE

АРХИЕПИСКОПИЯ ПРАВОСЛАВНЫХ РУССКИХ
ЦЕРКВЕЙ В ЗАПАДНОЙ ЕВРОПЕ

EXARCHAT DU PATRIARCHE ŒCUMENIQUE

ЭКЗАРХАТ ВСЕЛЕНСКОГО ПАТРИАРХА

ARCHEVÊQUE GABRIEL
EXARQUE du PATRIARCAT ŒCUMENIQUE

ARCHBISHOP GABRIEL
EXARCH OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

Paris, 5th October 2009

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have accepted the request from Bishop Basil to retire, and his retirement will become effective from 12 October 2009. After this date Bishop Basil will not be undertaking any pastoral, liturgical or administrative duties.

Bishop Basil has been my suffragan bishop with special responsibility for the parishes in Great Britain and Ireland since his acceptance under the omophorion of the Patriarch of Constantinople in June 2006. I wish it to be known that I am profoundly grateful to Bishop Basil for his pastoral and administrative care of these parishes and communities, and I ask God's blessing for him and wish him well in his retirement.

We shall have an opportunity to discuss in full the implications of Bishop Basil's retirement for the parishes and communities of the exarchate in Great Britain and Ireland at the next clergy meeting to be held on 23-24 October. I shall be chairing this meeting and I expect all the clergy of the exarchate in Great Britain and Ireland to attend.

I have asked Archpriest John Marks to continue in his position as dean of clergy, and in this capacity he is to be the first point of contact for any queries you may have

There will be a further opportunity for me to meet with both clergy and laity at the next meeting of the assembly, scheduled for the 28 November. I therefore urge all members of the assembly to come to this meeting. Elections should proceed as normal.

God bless you all!

+ *Archevêque Gabriel*



+ Archbishop Gabriel of Comana,
Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarch.